



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

EDUARDO J. SANCHEZ, M.D., M.P.H.
COMMISSIONER

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December 14, 2005

RE: Change in Hepatitis A Vaccine Recommendations/Requirements

Dear School/Child-Care Administrator:

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has approved new recommendations for the use of both inactivated hepatitis A vaccines manufactured by Glaxosmithkline (*Havrix*®) and Merck (*Vaqta*®). Previously, both vaccines were approved for use in children ages two years of age through 18 years of age. The vaccines are now approved for use in children 12 months of age through 18 years of age.

This dosing administration change does not change existing hepatitis A vaccine requirements for Texas children attending child-care facilities or schools. However, effective immediately, all hepatitis A vaccine doses administered on or after twelve months of age shall be considered valid doses when evaluating a student immunization record for compliance with the immunization requirements for school and child-care entry. Doses administered up to four days before the minimum interval or age can be counted as valid.

Please contact Monica Gamez, Immunization Compliance Coordinator, at (800) 252-9152 if you have any questions or need further information about immunization requirements.

Sincerely,
Jack C. Sims, Director
Immunization Branch

cc: Casey S. Blass, Director, Disease Prevention & Intervention Section
Debra C. Stabeno, M.P.H., Director, Prevention & Preparedness Services Division